

NEWS & VIEWS

The latest news and updates from the County of Barrhead

In this issue:

Council	Pg. 2	Municipal Reserve Land Use	Pg. 8
Rural Road Safety	Pg. 3	Compliance & Enforcement	Pg. 9
Public Works	Pg. 4	County Campgrounds	Pg. 10
Agriculture Services	Pg. 5	Misc. Info.	Pg. 11
Understanding Assessment	Pg. 6	B.A.R.C.C.	Pg. 12
ATV's / Public Lands	Pg. 7	2021 Election	Pg. 13

A MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE



W

elcome to summer! It's mid-July and life is feeling almost normal again. Family and friends are gathering, catching up on what's new in their lives and enjoying just being together.

County of Barrhead Council and staff did an amazing job managing the crisis over the past year. We were able to keep the doors open and the public and staff safe while conducting business. Work progressed despite the challenges and I wanted to recognize everyone's efforts in ensuring that Council business and service to our residents was uninterrupted. I can't thank everyone enough.

You may notice a lot of construction going on in the County this summer and fall, this is in part due to economic recovery grants from the provincial and federal governments. We had shovel ready projects planned and ready to go. Good planning saves ratepayer's money, especially when we can leverage provincial and federal grant funds. I realize road construction can be an inconvenience but please watch out for our workers.

Like you I am concerned about the lack of rain and the high temperatures. Agriculture is so vital to our local economy. Council will consider being an advocate for our farmers if conditions don't improve.

As we move through summer remember to support our local businesses and visit local attractions. They support us and we need to support them.

Take care and enjoy the summer.

Douglas Drozd

Reeve



Front Row (L to R):
Councillor Nanninga
Reeve Drozd,
Councillor Preugschas
Back Row (L to R):
Councillor Kleinfeldt,
Deputy Reeve Schatz,
Councillor Troock,
Councillor Lane

RURAL ROAD SAFETY:

Be aware of slow moving vehicles



Share the Road with Farm Vehicles / Equipment

While driving, please remain diligent of the various agricultural equipment on rural roads and highways.

Defensive driving tips for motorist:

- **Be alert**—Watch for farm vehicles on rural roads
- **Keep your distance**—Stay at least 15 meters or five car lengths back
- **Slow down**—As soon as you see a slow moving vehicle or piece of equipment, slow down
- **Be patient**
 - Don't assume a farm vehicle is pulling right to let you pass
 - Don't assume the farmer can move aside to let you pass
 - Don't pass until the road is clear of traffic and you are certain it is safe to pass
- **Make sure you are clear**—When passing make sure you can see the farm vehicle in your rear view mirror before you change back into the right lane

Protecting Roadside Workers

When approaching a construction zone, use extra caution, and slow down where people and equipment are working on or near the road. Obey all directions by flag people and signage. Be alert and patient so we can all get home safety.



Did you know?

Between 2014 and 2018, there were 2,229 injuries involving workers being struck by a vehicle in Alberta.

PUBLIC WORKS

Spring / Summer 2021 Projects

PRIVATE DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

Public Works crews completed 36 dust control locations for a total of 2200 feet of MG30 application.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION

1/4 mile of Range Road 34 north of Township Road 624A was improved to a County local road standard.



ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

1 1/4 mile of road reconstruction has commenced on Township Road 602 between Range Road 63 and 64. This project will take approximately 4 –5 weeks, weather dependent.

Dutch Elm Disease

What You Need to Know & How You Can Help



Dutch Elm Disease & Elm Bark Beetle

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a costly, deadly disease that affects all species of elm trees in Alberta. It is caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water conducting system, causing the tree to die. The fungus is primarily spread from one elm tree to another by elm bark beetles.

Dutch Elm Disease Prevention:

- Elms should be well watered from April to mid August.
- Dead branches and trees that provide beetle habitats should be removed.
- Elm bark beetles are attracted to fresh tree wounds; therefore, pruning should be done between October 1 to March 31 when the beetles are not in their active stage.
- Dispose of all elm wood by taking it to your local transfer station or landfill. Chips should be no greater than 1 inch as elm wood provides an ideal breeding site for the tiny

Report suspected infected trees immediately to STOPPED Hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS (3567).

Report signs and sightings through:

- EDDMapS
- 310-FARM
- AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca
- your local municipality

For more information, visit abinvasives.ca



Understanding Property Assessment



Property assessments are completed annually based on the previous year's market values. The assessment determines the amount of municipal and education tax each property owner pays.

Municipal assessments are audited by the Provincial government to ensure that proper valuation practices have been followed.

Determining the Assessed Value of Your Property

Market sets the value of your residential property. Market value assessments depend on the following variables:

- Geographic location
- Building size
- Building style
- Size of land
- Number of bathrooms
- Quality of finishing
- Basement development
- Other factors

Your 2021 residential assessment is based upon market conditions as of July 1, 2020 and physical characteristic date of December 31, 2020.

Did you know?

Education tax is set by the Province and collected by the County on behalf of the Province which makes up 22 % of the total taxes the County collects annually.

For additional details, and explanation about your assessment, please contact 780-674-3331 or email info@countybarrhead.ab.ca

IT'S NOT TOO
LATE TO SIGN
UP FOR TIPP!

Sign up now for the Property Tax Monthly payment plan.

This is a great way to spread out the cost over the year, with no interest penalty. Call our Tax Department for more information.

**Tax Instalment
Payment Plan**

TIPP

All-Terrain Vehicles on Public Lands

The land we impact impacts us all.



Motorized recreation can be an enjoyable and exciting way for outdoor enthusiasts to maneuver around public land. For more information on the rules and what you need to know before you head out on public land, please download a copy of the new Alberta's Guide to Outdoor Recreation on Provincial Crown Land. The guide can be found on the County website or by placing the following link in your browser: <https://www.countybarrhead.ab.ca/p/off-highway-vehicles>

Public Lands / Crown Lands

Alberta's public lands / crown lands are owned by all Albertans and managed by our provincial and federal governments. Public land makes up about 60% of the total land in Alberta.

Public lands provide a safe haven for wildlife, healthy waters, natural resources, and a place for public recreation and industry.

For more information on how to take advantage of these lands, regulations and where they are located visit <https://www.alberta.ca/public-land-use-zones-overview.aspx>



OHV's can cause significant damage to the landscape and environment, including:

- Soil compaction, contamination and erosion
- Loss of vegetation
- Transfer of weeds
- Water contamination
- Start of a wildfire
- Wildlife disruption



Keep Wheels Out of Water:

- prevent damage to fish habitat
- prevent silt from covering fish eggs
- Maintain clean waterways & water quality

Keep Distance From Shorelines:

- prevent shoreline erosion
- Prevent damage to aquatic plants

Keep Away From Wet Trails:

- prevent deep rutting & trail erosion
- maintain soil health

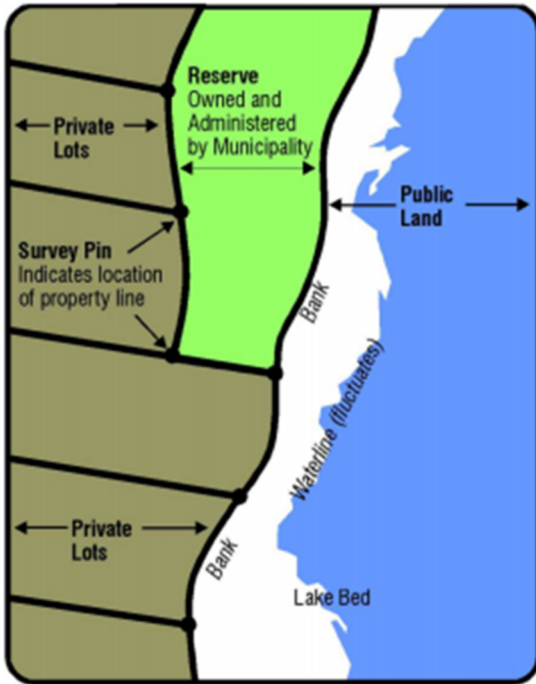
Keep Vehicles Free of Debris:

- prevent the start of wildfire
- Prevent the spread of weeds & seeds



Education & Awareness

Guidelines for Lakeshore & Reserve Land Use



What is Municipal Reserve?

Municipal Reserves provide parks and open space for area residents and the general public, as well as provide buffer strips, environmental reserves and walkways.

Photographed above is an example of County owned municipal reserve in proximity to the lake.

MYTH: I own the property right to the water's edge.

FACT: Your property is legally defined by the land title and registered survey plan of the parcel.

THINGS TO REMEMBER REGARDING MUNICIPAL RESERVE LANDS

- Reserve land includes municipal reserve and environmental reserve lands and can be found throughout the County, not just lakeside.
- Is owned by the County and is located between the lake shore and the private lot boundary.

Reserve land preserves and protects the bank and lakeshores.

Reserve land maintains public access to public lands.

(See pictured photograph for an example of County owned municipal reserve in proximity to a lake)

- Reserve land is for the general use and enjoyment of all members of the public.
- No resident has ownership or exclusive rights to any of the reserve land.
- Removal of trees and other vegetation on reserve land is prohibited without obtaining written approval from the County of Barrhead.
- Fires are permitted ONLY in designated fire pits and stoves within the reserve land. Fires must be supervised at all times and completely extinguished. All other fires require permits authorized by Fire Guardians. Please obey current fire orders.
- Use of vehicles, including off-highway vehicles, are prohibited on Municipal Reserve land.
- Digging, excavation, building on or use of reserve land for storage is prohibited without first obtaining written approval from the County of Barrhead and, in some cases, Alberta Environment.

Please refer to **Bylaw 50-85** for a complete list.

<https://countybarrhead.ab.ca/p/by-laws>

& Compliance Enforcement



County of Barrhead has begun **actively enforcing** bylaws relating to Municipal Reserve Land use and lakeshore protection.

- Two compliance requests with Real Property Reports (RPR's) triggered removal of personal structures and/or items from Municipal Reserve Lands.
- Three site visits resulted in removal of personal structures and remediation of Municipal Reserve Lands. Cost associated with the removal was recovered from the landowner for labor, seeding, and reforestation.
- One removal of an unauthorized dock.



County Community Peace Officers have been active in patrolling and responding to numerous complaints regarding quad and dirt bike use, municipal reserve land infractions, and dog / noise complaints.

Did you know?

Thinking about building.....

a home, garage, shed, etc.?



Development permits and approvals need to be obtained for new construction, renovations, and changes to how a building or land is being used.

County staff must review the application to ensure it complies with the County's Land Use Bylaw. The Land Use Bylaw outlines the types of development allowed in each land use district and the rules and regulations governing those uses.

For further information regarding the County's Land Use Bylaw, development permits / applications and subdivision applications please visit the website www.countybarrhead.ab.ca/p/development or call the County Office during

County of Barrhead Campgrounds

MAXIMUM STAY

14 Consecutive nights, to allow others the opportunity to enjoy the campgrounds.

RATES

Self Registration \$12.00/
night
First-Come First Served

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

Brought something in? It is your responsibility to pack it out.

QUIET TIME

11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
NOTE: Constant running of generators is considered excessive noise.



- PEANUT LAKE
- HOLMES CROSSING RECREATION AREA
- DOLBERG LAKE
- KLONDIKE FERRY

CAMP RESPONSIBLY

County of Barrhead Campground Locations & Overnight Camping Rules and Rates can be found on www.countybarrhead.ab.ca under the “Live & Play Here” tab.

OFFICE HOURS

The Administration Office is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed over the lunch hour.)

With COVID-19 public health restrictions being lifted on July 1st, masks are no longer required in the County Office. Plexiglass barriers will remain in place.

Alternate Contact & Payment Options

All County services continue to be delivered; however, alternate contact and payments methods are encouraged.

County staff can assist you by:

- **Phone:** 780-674-3331 (Administration Office)
780-674-2619 (Public Works)
- **Email:** info@countybarrhead.ab.ca
- **Fax:** 780-674-2777 (Administration Office)
780-674-9653 (Public Works)
- **Regular Mail:** County of Barrhead
5306 49 Street Barrhead, AB. T7N 1N5

Payment methods:

- **Cheque** (drop off box is available inside; receipts mailed)
- **E Transfer:** payments@countybarrhead.ab.ca
- **Online banking**



- **August 2, 2021**
Office is closed
- **August 31, 2021**
Payment Deadline for 2021 Property Taxes
- **September 1, 2021**
8% penalty calculated on outstanding taxes
- **September 6, 2021**
Office is closed
- **September 20, 2021—Noon**
Nomination Deadline
- **TBD**
Advance Poll
- **October 18, 2021**
Municipal Election
- **October 31, 2021**
4% penalty calculated on outstanding taxes

Regular Council meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month commencing at 9:00 a.m.



How to Tell Between A Real CRA Call and A Scam



Many of us have heard of scammers pretending they are from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). You may have even experienced a call yourself. How do you know what you can trust?

Remain cautious when you receive any forms of communication from someone claiming to be from the CRA, especially when asked for personal information such as a social insurance, credit card, or bank account number.

If you are unsure that the person on the phone is a legitimate agency employee, ask for the agent's phone number and badge number and contact the CRA at 1-800-959-8281 (individuals) or 1-800-959-5525 (businesses) to validate the caller.

WHO and WHAT is B.A.R.C.C.?

B.A.R.C.C. - **Barrhead and Regional Crime Coalition** is a regional partnership between the County of Barrhead, Town of Barrhead, Woodlands County, the R.C.M.P. and Barrhead & District Crime Watch Association.

Purpose of the coalition is to take a collaborative approach to make our communities safer. Through coordinated efforts in education and awareness of crime prevention and reporting suspicious activities, B.A.R.C.C. is taking an active role in reducing crime.

B.A.R.C.C. Connect is an a communication tool that was launched in October 2018. Our communication system will keep you informed of the following:

- Community Notices
- RCMP Information & Updates
- Upcoming Events
- Emergency Alert Messages from Alert Ready (Canada's National Emergency Alerting System)



www.barcc.ca

B.A.R.C.C.
Barrhead & Area Regional Crime Coalition

Receive the
ALERTS you
NEED

via the device you
WANT

Local alerts **YOU** choose

- Crime near you
- Fire bans
- Emergencies
- Road Construction
- Service Interruptions
- News & Events

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



In addition to the 2021 Municipal Election, County of Barrhead will be conducting the Senate and referendum, and the Pembina Hills School Division Board of Trustee elections.

Further information on advance polling and election day polling stations will be available soon. Please visit <https://countybarrhead.ab.ca/p/2021-municipal-election>

Please visit:

<https://countybarrhead.ab.ca/p/2021-municipal-election> for resources and information as we approach the 2021 Municipal Election.

Are you interested in running for Municipal Office as a County Councillor in the County of Barrhead?

- Candidates Information Package can be found on our website or by visiting the County office during regular business hours.

“Candidate Information” and **“Voting Information”** contains important information and forms such as:

- Governing legislation
- A Candidate's Guide: Running for Municipal Office
- Nomination procedures / Nomination paper
- Election day and advance voting locations
- Voting identification requirements

**County of Barrhead will be offering a
“Candidate Information Session”**

August 12, 2021 Time: TBA
(Please check the website for updates)



Is Your CONTACT INFORMATION



Up To Date?

If you have moved or changed your address, you need to update your contact information.

Contact the County Office or Land Titles to complete a **“Notice of Change of Address for Service.”**

NOTE: This form must have an original signature in **BLUE** ink.

Vision:
“To Foster a Strong, Healthy and Proud Rural Community”

We would love to hear from you!

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the County of Barrhead at:

Phone: 780-674-3331

Email: info@countybarrhead.ab.ca

For information on programs, upcoming events or local notices visit the website at:

countybarrhead.ab.ca

